

Re: How can I tell if I'm running as a service

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Development/microsoft.public.win32.programmer.kernel/2004-08/0300.html>

From: Old Fart (*oldfart_at_newsgroups.nospam*)

Date: 08/11/04

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I'm not entirely comfortable with this approach. In particular, my reading of the meaning of SECURITY_SERVICE_RID is that the account is authorized to run services, not necessarily that the process is running as a service. Also, the code is so ugly that I'd feel compelled to completely rewrite it.

One approach that occurred to me would be to check to see if the parent process was services.exe. My main discomfort here is relying on the particular name "services.exe". Any suggestions on a better way to determine if a particular process is the service manager?

Then, I also noticed that I could trace the lineage of service processes all the way back to process 0. On the other hand, I could not do that for my user mode processes. So, another possibility would be to try to trace back to process 0. If I could not get to process 0, then I'm not a service. If I can, then I might be a service and I'll call StartServiceCtrlDispatcher and see whether or not it fails.

Any comments on the relative merits of these three approaches (including the process token approach)? Any better ideas?

"William DePalo [MVP VC++]" <willd.no.spam@mvps.org> wrote in message news:e%23tVRh0fEHA.3988@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...

> "Old Fart" <oldfart@newsgroups.nospam> wrote in message

> news:ulg1rOzfEHA.396@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

>> Can someone suggest a fast way to tell whether or not my application is

>> being started as a service? (Please do not suggest using command line

>> parameters.)

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> You may want to take a look at the heuristic demonstrated here:

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> http://win32.mvps.org/security/is_svc.html

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> Regards,

> Will

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